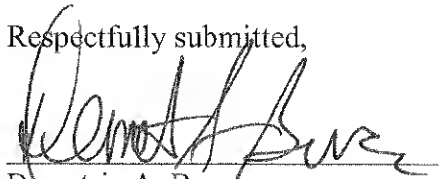


REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 30, 2009, has been received and carefully noted. Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 3-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 3 to be in independent form. Claims 1, 18, and 20 - 28 have been canceled. Claims 9, 10, 13-15, and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 3. As such, claim 3 and all claims dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below. In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter **026880-00004**.

Respectfully submitted,



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